

It's Sinclair Broadcasting Group all over again, and I am appalled at the gall of Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas. It is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time. Broadcasting groups should stay out, or get out of the business.

The FCC has given Pappas use of the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. The media in fact likely needs reinstatement of the "equal time for an opposing view" rule. This would benefit everyone, most importantly the public. We deserve better than pundits yelling at each other, especially on the airwaves that we own. AND, we deserve ownership of media that is truly in the public interest. If a company cannot meet that standard, as is the case with Pappas, their ability to own media should be called into question, as should their future licensure.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Liane M. Bromer, MD